



**Chatham County Democratic Party Weekly News Digest
March 25, 2024**

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News from the Chatham County Board of Elections

We Need YOU To Be an Election Worker!

As you know, this year's elections are important. It takes a lot of volunteers to ensure that our elections are fair and free. Chatham County needs more poll workers. Would you like to be one of them?

Poll workers, also known as election assistants, help voters check in at the polls, verify voter information, print out an appropriate ballot for each voter, and assist voters with every step of the voting process. As an election assistant, you would be trained for the job. You would be paid. You would work under the supervision of experienced election judges, who are responsible for all voting activity at each polling location. You'll also work with some wonderful people, individuals who are committed to making every voter's voice count.

We will need election assistants for the 17 days of early voting, beginning on Thursday, October 17, and ending on Saturday, November 2. On Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, election assistants will also be needed to cover the 18 Chatham County precinct voting locations. There will be some leeway on which days you would like to work during early voting, and half-day shifts are possible both during early voting and on Election Day.

Election assistants cannot be elected officials in any political party. They also cannot serve as poll greeters outside the polls, canvass for a political party, or work as partisan poll observers. Basic computer skills are necessary.

To apply, please fill out the application at <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-and-services/elections/opportunities-to-serve-as-an-election-worker-get-involved-in-elections>. Or, stop by the Chatham County Board of Elections Office (984 Thompson St., Suite D) for a paper copy. If you have questions, the Board of Elections staff will be glad to help. They can be reached at 919-545-8506.

We welcome your interest in serving as an election worker. Thank you for doing your part to secure our democracy.

###

Upcoming CCDP-Sponsored Events and Volunteer Opportunities

CCDP Volunteer Trainings

You're invited to sign up for any of these upcoming training sessions:

March 29; April 5, 12, 19 & 26, [Volunteer Orientation](#) @Zoom

April 5 & 19, [Events Team Orientation](#) @Zoom

March 27, April 3, April 17, [Canvassing Orientation and Training](#) @Zoom

March 26, [Staffing Tent Events](#), Community Engagement Center, 628 East St., Pittsboro

April 23 & 20, [Introduction to Voter Registration & Voter Education](#), Community Engagement Center, 628 East St., Pittsboro

Event Hosts are needed for those trainings held at the CEC. To sign up, go to: [CEC Event Host](#) .

Volunteer for a Shift at [Pittsboro First Sunday](#), April 7, Downtown Pittsboro

###

Other Upcoming Events

C2C Candidate Panel, March 25, 7 – 8 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Get to know some of the candidates County-to-County will partner with in 2024! We are so pleased to feature Sen. Lisa Grafstein (SD 13, Wake County), Ms. Safiyah Jackson (HD 37, Wake County), Ms. Woodson Bradley (SD 42, Mecklenburg County), and perhaps an additional face or two!

Join C2C and moderator Senator Sydney Batch for this exciting hour. We'll find out why these candidates are running for office, where they stand on some important issues, how they hope to make NC better, and what is happening in their districts.

Sign up at: [C2C Candidate Panel, March 25](#)

Ferrington Democratic Club, “Politicizing Health Care,” March 26, 7 p.m. (Virtual Event)

The Ferrington Democratic Club's speaker on the subject of “Politicizing Health Care” will be Rebecca Slifkin, Ph.D. Dr. Slifkin is a recently retired professor of Health Policy and Management at the UNC-CH School of Global Health. Previously, she worked for the US Dept. of Health and Human Services on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Her policy and research areas have included Medicare and pharmacy benefits, Medicaid managed care, and rural public health departments.

To request the Zoom link, use the contact form on the Club's website: [Contact Us \(fearringtondems.org\)](#) by 5 p.m. on the day of the event. Earlier is better.

Women's March – Bigger Than Roe, March 26, Washington, D.C.

The Supreme Court announced it will begin hearing oral arguments on the abortion pill (Mifepristone) on March 26th. This will be the Court's first serious return to the issue of abortion since overturning Roe v. Wade in 2022. If successful, this case can impact healthcare access for millions of women across the US — including in states where abortions are legal. Women's March is mobilizing a targeted action in Washington, DC to support women's rights to Mifepristone, reproductive choices, and healthcare.

If you are interested in participating, go to: [Will you take action on March 26th?](#)

###

Events Sponsored by Red, Wine & Blue

The Truth About Crisis Pregnancy Centers, Tuesday, March 26, 7:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Crisis pregnancy centers pretend to help women seeking health care but in reality, they use deceitful practices and spread disinformation with the goal of ending abortion access. Did you know that your tax dollars may fund them? Join us to learn who operates these centers, how they mislead vulnerable women and what we can do to fight back.

Sign up [here](#).

Troublemaven Academy, Wednesday, March 27, 7 p.m. (Virtual Event)

It's not too late to become a TroubleMaven! Our last class is on Wednesday, but if you sign up now, we will send you videos of previous sessions. Be ready to mobilize for NC and be a confident, effective advocate around the issues you care about!

Sign up [here](#).

Troublemaker Training: How To Be a Media Rockstar, Thursday, March 28, 7:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)

You are making waves and bringing change to your community – are you ready to up your game? It's time to become a media rockstar! How do you build relationships with reporters, successfully navigate interviews and bring attention to your efforts? Join us to learn what you need to know about interacting with the media.

Sign up [here](#).

Little Banned Book Club: The Moon Within, Wednesday, April 3, 7:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Join us as we read *The Moon Within*, about Celi Rivera as her life swirls with questions and her mother's insistence she have a moon ceremony when her first period arrives. It's an ancestral Mexica ritual that Mima and her community have reclaimed, but Celi promises she will NOT be participating. Can she find the power within herself to take a stand for who she wants to be?

Sign up [here](#).

###

News from the North Carolina Democratic Party

The Affordable Care Act: Happy anniversary to the Affordable Care Act! For over a decade, the Affordable Care Act has helped millions across the country gain access to health care. 21.3 million Americans enrolled in coverage during the last ACA open enrollment period, including over one million North Carolinians. **While Republicans continue to target the ACA, Democrats have worked hard to expand healthcare.** Here in North Carolina, Governor Cooper and Democrats in our General Assembly fought for years to expand Medicaid and at the end of last year, we won that fight. Now, 600,000 North Carolinians now have access to quality, affordable, and lifesaving healthcare. Trump is running on an agenda to "terminate" the Affordable Care Act. Use the anniversary as an opportunity to remind folks that healthcare is on the ballot in November!

More info:

This week marks the 14th Anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, serving as a reminder that healthcare is on the ballot

- 14 years after its passage, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) continues to be a lifesaver for millions of Americans – but its fate hangs in the balance in this Election.
- During his first term, Trump was one vote away from repealing the ACA. Now, he is promising to "terminate" the ACA again and gut health care for the millions of Americans who rely on the program.
- Trump and his allies also have plans to repeal President Biden's legislation that
- builds on the ACA to further lower health premiums and prescription drug costs.
- Trump is openly campaigning on a promise to:

- Threaten health care protections for as many as 100 million Americans with preexisting conditions like cancer, asthma, and diabetes;
 - Raise premiums and health care costs by thousands of dollars a year for Americans;
 - Raise seniors' prescription drug costs by hundreds of dollars per year;
 - Jeopardize free preventive care like cancer screenings, annual check-ups, and cholesterol tests for 150 million Americans;
 - Cause uninsurance rates for communities of color to skyrocket;
 - Kick millions of young people off their parents' coverage;
 - And take away access to mental health care or substance use treatment for millions.
- Meanwhile, President Biden was instrumental in passing the ACA. As president, he bolstered it to lower costs and expand access to health care:
 - Took on Big Pharma to lower prescription drug costs and cap insulin at \$35 a month for seniors;
 - Lowering premiums, saving millions of Americans \$800 per year;
 - Got more Americans covered than under any other president— driving record low uninsurance rates, and a historic 21 million people have enrolled in ACA marketplaces this year;
 - Made affordable health care more accessible by making it easier for people to find and enroll in health care plans;
 - Preventing surprise medical bills for one million Americans every month;
 - Fighting to protect and strengthen Medicare;
 - Expanding access to mental health care.
 - Democrats in North Carolina have fought for years to expand Medicaid in our state. Thanks to Governor Cooper and Democrats in the General Assembly, that finally came to fruition in December, granting 600,000 North Carolinians access to quality, affordable, and lifesaving healthcare.

House Bill 2 Anniversary:

The anniversary of the passage of the deeply discriminatory House Bill 2 is this weekend. The bill, signed by our last Republican governor, specifically targeted North Carolina's trans and LGBTQ+ community – and was the subject of nationwide critique – costing the state millions of dollars because companies refused to do business in a state that was discriminating against its own communities. *“Nearly seven years after*

*North Carolina repealed the “bathroom bill” that led to national headlines and economic boycotts, **Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson is bringing back the issue of bathroom requirements for transgender people.** In campaign speeches in recent weeks, Robinson suggested that people who previously identified as male should be “arrested” if they go in a women’s bathroom. Instead, he suggests they should “find a corner outside somewhere” to relieve themselves.” We are not this and we cannot go backwards.*

Michele Morrow:

As MSNBC put it, **“North Carolina ballot to feature a growing number of GOP radicals.”** There’s Mark Robinson of course – and we also have Michele Morrow, NC GOP Candidate for Superintendent of Public Schools. Michele Morrow homeschools her kids, has zero experience working in education, and she has called public schools “socialist indoctrination centers.” She said “I’d like to see a constitutional amendment to get rid of the state Board of Education.” And, possibly the most disturbing, called for a televised execution of President Obama, saying: “I prefer a Pay Per View of him in front of the firing squad. I do not want to waste another dime on supporting his life. We could make some money back from televising his death.” The NC Chamber of Commerce said Michele Morrow’s primary win is “a startling warning of the looming threats to North Carolina’s business climate” **While there will be a lot of focus this year on the top of the ticket, North Carolina’s down ballot races are going to be critically important.** We have to elect Democrats to our executive branch, the council of state. Call her out – and take the time to introduce North Carolinians to her opponent, Democrat Mo Green: www.mogreenfornc.com

###

News from Neighbors on Call

Next Stop Granville, March 27, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. ("Doors" open for optional social time at 7 p.m.) (Virtual Event)

The path to breaking the supermajority runs through Granville, a diverse, growing, vibrant county next door to the Triangle -- with TWO must-win state legislative districts. Neighbors on Call and the Granville County Democratic Party invite you to learn more about Granville (and the best hot sauce contest in NC!) with: Ricky Hurtado, moderator; Oxford City Commissioner Bryan Cohn, candidate for NC House District 32; Dr. Linda Jordon, Mayor of Butner; Liz Purvis, Chair of the Granville County Democratic Party. Introductions by NC Rep. Terence Everitt, candidate for NC Senate District 18

Sign up at: [Upcoming Events](#)

NoC Spring Happy Hours With Special Guests

Let us treat you and a NoC-curious friend to a drink at one (or all!) of our NoC Spring Happy Hours!

Find community, optimism, and a way to help pave the way to victory with Neighbors on Call and our special guests (with more to come!):

Wed 4/24 @ 5:30pm in Fuquay-Varina with:

NC Sen. Sydney Batch
NC Sen. Lisa Grafstein (SD 13)
Safiyah Jackson (for HD 37)

Wed 5/1 @ 5:30pm in Wake Forest with:

NC Sen. Sydney Batch
NC Rep. Terence Everitt (for SD 18)
Evonne Hopkins (for HD 35)

Sun 5/19 @ 4pm in Hillsborough with:

NC Rep. Terence Everitt (for SD 18)
NC Rep. Renée Price
Commissioner Bryan Cohn (for HD 32)

Thurs 5/23 @ 5:30pm in Pittsboro with:

NC House Dem Leader Robert Reives
NC Sen. Lisa Grafstein (SD 13)
NC Sen. Natalie Murdock
Safiyah Jackson (for HD 37)

We're looking to grow our circle of committed activists who can help us break the supermajority, and we need your help. Please bring your friends! We can't wait to meet them.

Our special guests are coming to meet *you!*

Policy Update for March 22, 2024

Governance

- [The short session in the NCGA begins April 24](#). Republican Speaker of the House Tim Moore indicated that a priority for the NC House would be passing a bill defining antisemitism as a hate crime, suggested that raises for state employees and teachers might be considered when the budget is drafted, and mentioned illegal immigration as a target issue. He also said the NC House would not take up any bills further restricting abortion during this session.

Voting Rights

- [On Tuesday a three-judge Superior Court panel unanimously ruled that NC Republican legislators' changes to how elections boards are appointed are unconstitutional.](#) The law, which the NCGA passed along party lines, took appointment power away from the governor and assigned it to the legislature, a change that the judges ruled would infringe on the governor's constitutional duties. [The Republican leaders of the NCGA are appealing the ruling.](#)
- [On Wednesday a U.S. District judge denied a summary judgment request that would have stopped a trial over the constitutionality of North Carolina's voter ID law.](#) The trial over the NAACP's challenge to the law will take place as scheduled beginning May 6. The same judge, Loretta Biggs, had issued a preliminary injunction in 2019 blocking the law from going into effect, but that decision was reversed by an appeals court, and the photo ID requirement went into effect last fall.

Economic Policy

- [On Monday a new law legalizing online sports gambling in North Carolina went into effect.](#) The law allows anyone 21 or older who is physically based in North Carolina to bet on sports online. [The first \\$2 million generated by sports betting will be allocated to the Department of Health and Human Services to address problem gambling.](#)

###

News from NC Attorney General Josh Stein

CONSUMER ALERT

Don't fall for law enforcement scammers

Friday, March 22, 2024

Earlier this week, the Guilford County Sheriff's Office [sent out a warning](#) about a phone scam that's been on the rise. People are receiving calls from someone claiming to be a Guilford County deputy who says they must pay a fine immediately to avoid being arrested. To make matters worse, the scammers have been using names of real deputies and spoofing the phone number to make it appear as if it's coming from the sheriff's office.

Law enforcement scams are a common way for scammers to intimidate people into paying money. Here's what to remember:

1. No legitimate law enforcement officer or government official is going to call you to threaten you with arrest or other legal consequences.

2. Verify the caller. While spoofing is less common than it used to be, scammers can still use technology to make a call appear as if it's coming from an authentic source. It's better to hang up, look up the agency's number on your own, and then call them back.
3. Never pay someone who wants payment through gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency. It's usually a scam, and once the money is gone, it's hard to get it back.
4. Try not to panic. It's understandably scary to get a call from a law enforcement officer telling you that you may be arrested, but don't act out of fear. Take a moment and assess the situation. Call someone you trust or our office 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.

If you do receive such a call from a scammer, hang up and report it to local law enforcement, or file a complaint with our office at www.ncdoj.gov/complaint.

###

News from NC Congressman Jeff Jackson

I just walked off the House floor and I'm hitting send on this email that I (mostly) wrote last night.

I couldn't send it this morning because I wasn't sure if the budget would actually pass - but it did.

It's been a wild ride.

For those keeping track, the budget is six months late. We've come to the brink of a government shutdown five separate times, including today - *and it may still happen*.

A big chunk of the government will shut down tonight at midnight unless the Senate acts with light speed to pass the bill that we just passed in the House.

That said, if a shutdown happens, don't fall for the flashy headlines - it will be extremely brief. The budget is a lock to pass the Senate very soon.

As a freshman member of Congress, sometimes it's hard for me to figure out why a certain bill gets delayed or denied. There are legislative trapdoors all over the place and plenty of folks can bump a bill onto one of them and then *swoop* and we never hear from it again.

This was not one of those times. In this case, the scene was full of perpetrators raising their hands and gleefully confessing.

In short, the right-flank in the House withheld their support. They demanded major budget cuts in many areas (health care, education, etc.), provisions dealing with abortion, and some other culture war issues.

And they got basically none of that. There are a few programs that got some small cuts, a few others that got small boosts, but for the most part this is a non-radical budget - which is generally what you'd expect from divided government, as we currently have.

The Speaker did throw his right-flank a small bone by including a provision that clarifies that the use of gas stoves shall not be prohibited. I'm not sure anyone in Congress was ever opposed to that, but it became a media flashpoint for a few days last year, so now that's settled.

Having received practically none of their demands, the right-flank is furious. They're doing interviews blasting the Speaker, and I imagine they'll continue that for the next couple of weeks.

My expectation is that the Speaker is going to respond by being polite and non-confrontational. He's going to try and placate them to the extent possible.

But if he were being completely candid with them, here's what I think he would say:

*"You could have had so much more. This could have been a much more conservative budget. You made a bunch of demands that you knew I couldn't meet because it would have tanked this in the Senate. So instead of trying to get as much as we could, you withheld your support, which forced me to go to the other party in the House to get the votes I needed to pass this. That meant that I had to compromise with the other party *three times* - once in the House, again in the Senate, and again with the White House. Which meant you got your gas stoves and that was about it."*

And remember at the top of this email how I said I wrote most of this last night? Well, here's an update from just a few moments ago:

As expected, the right-flank is extremely upset. But one member just took it a step further and *filed a motion to fire the Speaker*.

Except this time, they haven't decided to force a vote on it. A member can choose to make the motion to fire the Speaker "privileged" and then House has to vote on it within two legislative days. The motion that was just filed isn't privileged, so it's just going to hang out there in the wind - unless they decide to force it.

So why file the motion to fire the Speaker but not force a vote?

To torment the guy. To remind him of your leverage. And - most importantly - to grab a bunch of media attention, as this move surely will. *(And sure enough, I just checked and it's already made national headlines. Before I could even finish typing this!)*

All that said, it's still my sense that - in private - most of the right-flank is basically fine with getting nothing from their budget battle.

Most of these folks have a media agenda more than a legislative agenda, so losing legislative battles works just as well as winning them. Complaining about the Speaker will get them more attention than celebrating him, so they don't really mind that much. Even if they try to fire him, the point wouldn't be to *actually* fire him. The point is to get attention for the attempt.

Last thing, and I've said this before:

The new Speaker is basically acting the same way the old Speaker did. The two of them might use a different political vocabulary, but on the big, strategic stuff, there's no real difference that I can see. I've talked about this with other members of Congress from both parties and that seems to be the consensus. Even though he was formerly a member of the right-flank, ascension to leadership seems to have had somewhat of a moderating effect.

Campaign update - *energy and joy*

Now that we've cast our last vote for the week, I'm jumping on a plane and flying home. I'll say hi to Marisa and our kids, go for a long family walk, eat a meal together, then get in the car and start campaigning.

Sometimes I meet people at events who say something like, "I know this is a lot of work" or "You must be very busy."

And that's true, we are.

But, to be honest, I love campaigning. I love meeting people and trying to give them a more positive vision of what politics can be. There are days when it's just plain fun.

The time away from family is rough, but we know it has a fixed end-date: November 5th. We can make it, and until then we're going to campaign with energy and joy.

Now that we're past the primary, I'd love to start the next phase with a strong dose of support from all of you. Those are always great days for our team.

###

Selected News and Opinion Stories

ABC11.com: [First Lady Jill Biden Visits North Carolina to Talk Women's Health](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [IVF Patients Urge NC Republicans to Protect Them from 'Political Intrusions'](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Higher Insurance Rates Could Crush NC Homeowners](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Inside 'the Culture War': An Ideological Battle on College Campuses](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [80% of House Republicans Support Plan to Cut Social Security, Ban Abortion, and Restrict IVF](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Future of NC Wetlands May Hinge on Whether Courts See Martin County Acreage as 'Waters of the U.S.'](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Would Instant Runoffs Improve Election Process in NC?](#)

Chapelboro: [Chatham County Roundup: Commissioner Karen Howard](#)

Chapelboro: [House Minority Leader Shares Thoughts on NC Primaries and General Election Strategies](#)

CNN: [CNN Reporter Confronts GOP Nominee Who Called for Obama to Be Executed](#)

Coastal Review.org: [Journalists Society Gives Black Hole Award to NC Legislature](#)

FWIW: [The Very Online Spoiler Campaign That Could Re-Elect Trump](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Biden Leads in 6 New Polls, The Booming American Economy, The Republican Party is Broke and Broken](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Why I Am Optimistic About Winning This November](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Trump is In Trouble, The Biden Latino Campaign Begins, Let's Do More and Worry Less](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [The 'Trump is a Strong Candidate' Bubble Is Bursting, Biden Leads in 6 Post-SOTU Polls](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Reuben Gallego, The Next Senator from Arizona, Joins the Hopium Community](#)

Lucid: [Autocracy Means Plunder, in Russia and Beyond](#)

NC Newsline: [Alamance County Can Allow Confederate Monument to Stand, NC Appeals Court Rules](#)

NC Newsline: [Mo Green: North Carolina is in a Fight for the 'Soul of Public Education'](#)

New York Times: [Opinion: One Thing Keeping Democrats Up at Night](#)

New York Times (May Require Subscription): [On Politics Newsletter](#)

New York Times (May Require Subscription): [On Politics: The Supreme Court and Young Voter Turnout](#)

New York Times (May Require Subscription): [The Morning: Race and Politics](#)

New York Times (May Require Subscription): [Trump on Trial](#)

New York Times (May Require Subscription): [The Morning: How Peer Pressure Affects Voting](#)

Raleigh News & Observer (May Require Subscription): [Under the Dome: Who's Leading in a Poll of the Governor's Race, and Tillis Claps Back](#)

Vanity Fair: [Bernie Sanders Tells People To Suck It Up and Vote for Biden Because the Alternative is Living in Hell](#)

WFAE: [The Very Small Battlefield Over the NC House in This Fall's Elections](#)

WRAL: [Citing Robinson's Nomination, Connecticut Aims to Poach NC Companies](#)

WUNC: [State Employee Races, Anti-Semitism Bill Possible This Year, NC House Speaker Says](#)

WUNC: [N.C. Republican Nominee for Governor Has a Long History of Controversial Remarks](#)

WUNC: [NC Constitution Party Nears Ballot Access – Could It Affect Close Races?](#)